

**CITY OF MILPITAS  
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION MINUTES**

**MINUTES:** Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)  
**DATE OF MEETING:** Thursday, January 22, 2009  
**PLACE OF MEETING:** Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Committee Meeting Room

**I. ROLL** Chair Grilli called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.  
**Commissioners / Alternates Present:** Arbaugh, Grilli, Mateo, Arefi, Tran, and Ortega  
**Commissioners Absent:** Chen  
**City Council Liaison Absent:** Vice Mayor McHugh  
**MUSD Liaison Present:** Gwan Alisantosa  
**Staff Present:** Cuciz, Harris

**II. ALTERNATES** Alternate Commissioners Arbaugh and Marsha Tran were seated.

**III. PLEDGE** Chair Grilli led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. MINUTES** **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of October 23, 2008.  
M/S: Ortega / Mateo AYES: All

**V. AGENDA** **MOTION** to approve the January 22, 2009 agenda.  
M/S: Ortega / Mateo AYES: All

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENT AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

- The new council liaison is Vice Mayor McHugh. The new MUSD liaison is Gwan Alisantosa. Furthermore, Commissioners Debra Dugdale and Beverly McCarter have resigned from the commission. Staff liaison Cuciz will contact the Mayor's office regarding new appointments. All commission appointments are made by the Mayor.
- The City of Milpitas' 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Emergency Service Preparedness Seminar will be held Thursday, February 5, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

**VII. PUBLIC FORUM:**

Library Commissioner Elpidio R. Estioko  
Library Commissioner Yulan Chou

Commissioners Estioko and Chou are soliciting funds for a donation program to support library services that are unfunded by the city and/or county. The donor program will have a four tiered system based on the value of the donation with color-coded plaques displaying the names of the donors at the library.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1.) **ELECTIONS:** Chair Grilli was nominated to stand as Chair Commissioner.

**MOTION** to elect Dennis Grilli as Chair of the Commission.

M/S: Arbaugh / Arefi

AYES: All

Alternate Commissioner Arbaugh expressed interest in the Vice Chair position and other commissioners stated their interest in his nomination. The Vice Chair position will be finalized once the commission appointments are completed by the Mayor.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS:**

- 2.) **NUEVA VIZCAYA-** Correspondence was sent in August 2008 in response to their request to form a Sister City relationship. There has been no response from Nueva Vizcaya. Per Chair Grilli and consensus of the commission, this item will be removed from the agenda.
- 3.) **HUIZHOU** – Chair Grilli received an email from the coordinator at Huizhou indicating that Huizhou would like to send a teacher and student delegation. Chair Grilli will be in contact with the Principal to coordinate the best time of year for the visit and the reciprocal costs. Chair Grilli estimates the cost to be around \$2,500, and says it will likely be during spring break 2010 for the reciprocal visit.
- 4.) **DAGUPAN** – There has been no correspondence since their November, 2008 visit. Commissioner Mateo to follow up with Farrah Decano for an understanding of their plans for the upcoming year. Dagupan's M.O.U. expires in June 2009.
- 5.) **TSUKUBA** - Tsukuba is requesting to do an exchange every 5 years for financial reasons. Tsukuba is waiting to hear back from the Milpitas Commission. Chair Grilli suggests we abandon the student exchange for the time being, and form a cultural exchange instead, with students and adults alike. Commissioner Arbaugh will meet/speak with former Commissioner Dugdale for an update on Tsukuba. Alt. Commissioner Tran will co-lead with Commissioner Arbaugh.
- 6.) **WESTERN EUROPEAN** – Commissioner Arefi states that the number of cities searching for a Sister Cities (S.C.) relationship has shrunk. Commissioner Arefi has forwarded emails to those that are still interested, but has had no response. Council Liaison Vice Mayor McHugh has been very involved in the Santa Clara County exchange program, and Commissioner Arefi is hopeful Vice Mayor McHugh's connections will give the commission Western European leads. Commissioner Arbaugh has had no response from H  chheim, but is continuing to look for a western European city. Commissioner Arbaugh has a contact in Hamburg and will look into a suburb near that area for a possible S.C. relationship.

## **X. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

No report.

## **XI. SCHOOL BOARD REPORT LIAISON REPORT**

The M.U.S.D. is hosting a crab feed on January 30, 2009 at the I.C.C. Tickets are \$40 per person. Go to MUSD.org for additional information.

## **XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchange
  - i. Huizhou City, China – Expiration of Agreement
  - ii. Dagupan City, PI
  - iii. Tsukuba City, Japan – Expiration of Agreement
2. Western European Sister City Research / Update

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

No further business was discussed and Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:34 P.M. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on February 26, 2009.

**MOTION** to adjourn.

M/S: Mateo / Arefi

AYES: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni Harris

Sister Cities Recording Secretary

Holly Cuciz

Sister Cities Liaison